

**MINUTES OF ASTON, COTE, SHIFFORD & CHIMNEY PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 3RD AUGUST 2017 IN THE
VILLAGE HALL, ASTON AT 7.30 PM**

1. Members **Richard Haines (Chairman)**

Present: **Jane Everex**
 John Ordish
 Paul Sparrowhawk
 Jane West
 Phil West

In Attendance: Helen Sandhu – Clerk
 Hilary Fenton – West Oxfordshire District Councillor
 Charles Mathew – Oxfordshire County Councillor
 Two members of the public

Members’

Apologies: Ben Lings

2. Minutes of previous meeting – on 6 July 2017 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
Proposed by Jane West, seconded by John Ordish.

3. Parish Councillors – Disclosure of interests on agenda items

Phil West, as the potential contractor, the quotation to cut the grass between Aston and Cote.

4. Public Representation

The members of the public present expressed their dissatisfaction at the lack of maintenance of the verge in Ham Lane. The County Council has told them that the Parish Council is responsible for the verge maintenance.

Richard Haines told the members of the public that the verge is owned by Highways but the Parish Council arranges for the verge to be cut, under an agency agreement with the County Council. The verge covered by the contract extends up to the parking area only. The members of the public said that the grass contractors had cut the entrance to Ham Lane this week but hadn’t cut the rest of the verge in Ham Lane.

The Clerk said that she will contact the contractor about this and ask them to revisit to cut the rest of the verge.

The members of the public then went on to express their concern about a horse box parked on Ham Lane which hasn’t been moved for several months. Richard Haines said that he was aware that this issue has been reported to Oxfordshire County Council who has forwarded the matter to West Oxfordshire District Council, and also to the DVLA and Thames Valley Police. Mr Haines said that this was not a matter in which the Parish Council has any powers to act, and it would appear that all of the relevant authorities have been informed.

The members of the public told the meeting that there are trees overhanging the highway in Ham Lane and when trailers carrying straw, the overhanging branches knock the straw off which leaves a mess. They asked whether the Parish Council could request that the trees are cut back by the householder.

Richard Haines said that the Parish Council would first need to ascertain which trees are causing an issue and who owns them, and would then consider writing to the householder.

Public Representation (continued)

Richard Haines said that he has been approached by a member of the public concerned about the waste bin outside the garage. This bin is actually sited on land belonging to the garage, but the owners have moved the bin due to issues caused by people using it to dispose of dog waste and wasps. The garage owner has asked whether the bin could be replaced with one with a lid? It was noted that there are other bins in the vicinity. It was agreed to consider this issue at the next meeting.

5. WODC/OCC Matters

Hilary Fenton told the Parish Council that she sits on the Board of the local Citizens Advice Bureau. She attended the recent AGM where it was outlined just how much work the CAB has to deal with. A lot of contact is done by email and telephone, but visits can also be arranged to people in their own homes, particularly the elderly.

Charles Mathew told the Parish Council that the weight enforcement camera on Newbridge has finally been replaced.

Mr Mathew said that he is continuing to work hard to ensure that sensible and creative solutions are sought to deal with congestion on the A40 and to oppose proposals which he does not think will be effective.

The Minerals and Waste Core Strategy has been accepted by the Inspector and will now come back to the County Council for final approval in September. Mr Mathew said that he continues to believe that the Strategy includes inappropriate extraction volumes. The 2016 actual extraction figures have recently been released – mineral requirements were 27% below the 2015 figures, meaning that the Strategy is even more overstated. The volumes included within the Strategy are 66% above the most recent actual ten year average.

6. Change to Agenda Order

It was resolved to bring forward discussion of original Agenda Item 11 (Planning) to this point of the meeting. Proposed by John Ordish, seconded by Paul Sparrowhawk.

7. PLANNING

Follow up to previous planning applications

14/01496/FUL Thistle Cottage, Ham Lane, Aston – visual splay/obstruction of highways verge – situation still not resolved

It was agreed that Charles Mathew could contribute to this discussion in his role as an Oxfordshire County Councillor. He told the Parish Council about an email he had received from Nick Blacow, the Senior Highways Procedures Officer at Oxfordshire County Council. The new hedge appears to have been planted on the boundary line. In the planning conditions West Oxfordshire District Council did not refer to the need for the vision splay to be adopted, and this means that the County Council cannot enforce the boundary.

Richard Haines contested that the existence of a highway verge outside of the fence and hedge which originally formed the boundary of the site before it was developed can clearly be seen on Google maps at street level, including the fact that there was a 30mph sign on a pole on the verge, which the County Council would only have erected on highways land. The developer's original intention to reinstate the verge can clearly be seen on the site maps submitted with the planning application. The Parish Council position continues to be that the verge should be reinstated.

Charles Mathew said that this is a matter for the Planning Department of WODC as it hinges on the planning conditions.

It was resolved that the Parish Council will write to WODC to enquire as to why the way the planning conditions have been discharged means that the County Council cannot now enforce the original position of the highway boundary. Hilary Fenton and Steve Good to be included in circulation list, and Mr Mathew asked that the Parish Council also send a copy to him and to Nick Blacow.

Mr Mathew and the two members of the public left the meeting.

New planning applications

17/02062/HHD 10 Saxel Close, Aston
Alterations and erection of single and first floor extensions
No comments or objections.

17/02131/HHD 4 Kingsway Cottages, Bampton Road, Aston
Erection of rear conservatory
No comments or objections.

Planning applications approved

17/01964/HHD 15 Waites Close, Aston
Erection of two storey extension

Tree Preservation Order decision made

51.04/T76 Proposal to fell six sycamore trees at entrance to Wheelwright court
Tree Preservation Order confirmed at Lowlands Planning Sub-Committee meeting on 10 July

Planning applications going to appeal

16/03005/OUT Land North of Cote Road, Cote Road, Aston
Outline planning permission for up to 30 residential dwellings and associated works
It was noted that the Parish Council had objected to this application and that the letter of objection will be forwarded to the Planning Inspector. The Clerk was asked to respond to the appeal with repeated concerns about the inability of the sewage system to accommodate this development. Response to stress that if the appeal is allowed, there must be a condition to require there to be a clear plan and timescale for the necessary infrastructure improvements to the sewage system before development can take place.

Planning applications going to appeal

17/01128/HHD Old Dairy Barn, Cote
Erection of single storey extension

8. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings

a) Maintenance of parish benches

John Ordish told the Parish Council that the cost of 4 recycled plastic planks to replace the wooden ones on the VE/VJ seat will be around £205. It was resolved to go ahead with this purchase. Proposed by Jane West, seconded by Paul Sparrowhawk.

Matters Arising from Previous Meetings (continued)

Maintenance of parish benches

The Clerk said that she has contacted the company who supplied the bench purchased for the village hall patio and hopes to be able to bring a proforma invoice for the new bench for Southlands to the next meeting.

b) Anti Social Behaviour

It was noted that there was a recent incidence of malicious damage to a vehicle parked on Bull Street.

9. New Business

a) Meeting with Robert Courts, MP

The Clerk was asked to try and arrange for the Parish Council to meet with Mr Courts on a Saturday morning in the café of Aston Pottery. If a Saturday meeting is not possible the Clerk was asked to suggest a mid-week morning, but not a Tuesday.

b) LCR magazine subscription renewal

It was resolved to renew this subscription at a cost of £17.00 – proposed by John Ordish, seconded by Jane West.

c) Donation request from Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum (SOF0)

It was resolved that the Parish Council would not provide a donation.

10. Community Trust

The minutes of the recent meeting were put in the folder.

11. Parish Infrastructure

a) Metal chicanes/barriers at footpath ends – Woodbridge Close, Cote Road, Bull Street

The rectification work has still not been carried out. The Clerk was asked to advise the County Council that the Parish Council will be seeking a 50% rebate on the price paid for this work which has not been completed to an acceptable standard and is therefore poor value for money.

b) Consideration of grass cut for verge alongside footway between Cote and Aston

Following the last meeting Phil West had provided a quotation for this work from his company, but it was noted that the verge has now been cut by the County Council.

12. FINANCE

a) Account Balances – noted.

b) Future precept plans

The content of the proposed survey to include in the September edition of Voices was discussed. Projects to include for residents to express a view on: floodlighting for the multi-use games court; a new children's play area (already being put planned by the Community Trust); outdoor gym equipment; replacement of concrete pavilion; traffic calming measures on Cote Road to match the expected £10,000 S106 money; or for the Parish Council to use the additional funds at its discretion.

The Clerk was asked to prepare a draft survey for circulation.

John Ordish agreed to ask Aston Stores whether the shop can act as a returns point. Deadline for returns – 12pm Saturday 30th September.

FINANCE (continued)

c) July invoices presented for approval and payment

		Statute
Clerk's salary and working from home allowance	381.00	LGA 1972, s112
Clerk's expenses – printing, 142 sheets x 7p	9.94	LGA 1972 s111
Des Johnston – 3 cuts of playing field	216.00	LG(MP)A 1976, s19
West Oxfordshire District Council – emptying of dog bin in August	21.94	Litter Act 1983
NALC (LCR magazine subscription)	17.00	LGA 1972, s111
Total	645.88	

It was resolved to make the above payments, proposed by Paul Sparrowhawk, seconded by Jane West.

13. Parish Councillors' reports from meetings attended since last meeting

John Ordish attended the meeting of the Bampton Flood Prevention Group on 20 July – minutes in the folder.

Signeddated.....